

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER, KENTUCKY & TENNESSEE

LOCATION: As the name implies, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area is located along the south fork of the Cumberland River in the border area between southeastern Kentucky and northeastern Tennessee. The area totals some 196 square miles of river and forest. Each of the two states has a Visitor's Center: outside Stearns in Kentucky, and off TN-297 in Tennessee. The Stearns facility is closed weekdays from November through March. Elevations in the Area vary. The table assumes an elevation of some 1,500 feet above sea level. This is pretty close to that of most developed facilities. The Area features camping, river-running, fishing, hunting, biking, and horseback-riding.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:59	10:50	11:57	13:06	14:06	14:37	14:24	13:34	12:27	11:18	10:17	9:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:11	5:10	6:18	7:47	8:51	9:32	9:13	8:32	7:52	7:01	5:10	3:59
AREA OF BLUE SKY	32%	35%	37%	41%	43%	45%	45%	47%	50%	53%	42%	34%
LOW FOR MONTH	2°	5°	16°	26°	37°	48°	55°	53°	42°	28°	16°	8°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	25°	27°	34°	44°	52°	59°	63°	62°	56°	44°	35°	28°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	46°	49°	58°	69°	77°	83°	86°	86°	81°	70°	58°	49°
HIGH FOR MONTH	68°	71°	78°	87°	89°	93°	95°	95°	92°	84°	78°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	74%	70%	48%	15%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	47%	66%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	26%	23%	10%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	61%	57%	52%	49%	53%	55%	57%	56%	55%	52%	56%	61%
DRY DAYS	61%	61%	59%	62%	63%	65%	64%	68%	73%	76%	68%	63%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	71%	70%	69%	73%	76%	77%	74%	79%	80%	87%	77%	76%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.74	0.79	0.88	0.76	0.68	0.78	0.83	0.60	0.60	0.46	0.64	0.75
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.6"	5.2"	2.8"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.9"	3.0"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	9%	8%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	5%	11%	15%	21%	27%	30%	24%	12%	4%	4%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	6%	5%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	7%	8%	10%	7%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 56% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 41% in December, to a high of 65% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to zero on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 97° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. From late December through February, about one day in seven will remain below freezing all day. During that same winter season, temperatures will drop down to zero or below about twice. Over the course of the year, about one day in three will get precipitation of some sort. This precipitation is a bit more frequent, but lighter and longer-lasting during the winter months. Summer rain tends to be thunderstorms.